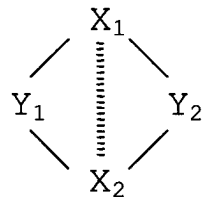


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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composition for inhibiting the RNase H activity of a retroid virus reverse transcriptase comprising an inhibitory agent of Formula I:



Formula I

wherein,

X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are antiparallel complementary oligonucleotide strands that associate to form a duplex;

X<sub>1</sub> is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

X<sub>2</sub> is 2 to 24 nucleotides in length;

Y<sub>1</sub> is 0 to 8 nucleotides in length;

Y<sub>2</sub> is 0 to 8 nucleotides in length;

at least one of Y<sub>1</sub> or Y<sub>2</sub> is ~~2~~ 4 to 8 nucleotides in length;

and

Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> each independently contain a ribonucleic acid; 2',5'-linked ribonucleic acid; or combination thereof wherein a Y<sub>1</sub> or Y<sub>2</sub> of at least 4 nucleotides ~~said ribonucleic acid~~ comprises the sequence 5'-UUYG-3'/2' (SEQ ID NO:1); and

X<sub>1</sub> or X<sub>2</sub> are comprised of an arabinonucleic acid; a 2'-fluoro-arabinonucleic acid; a locked nucleic acid; a 2'-fluoro-

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ribonucleic acid; a peptide nucleic acid; or a combination thereof.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  of Formula I are comprised of 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid.

Claim 4 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  of Formula I are comprised of deoxyribonucleic acid.

Claim 5 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  of Formula I are comprised of a combination of 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid.

Claim 6 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  of Formula I are 3',5'-linked ribonucleic acid and are 4 to 10 nucleotides in length.

Claim 7 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are a 3',5'-linked tetraribonucleotide of the sequence 5'-UUYG-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claim 8 (original): A composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is a cyclic structure.

Claims 9-10 (canceled).